

Article 34 Que 4

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for receiving e-mail, said e-mail including a header and a message body, comprising the steps of:
  - separating said header from said message body;
  - storing said message body in a message body field;
  - separating information contained in said header into a plurality of header information fields;
  - storing said header information fields;
  - linking at least one of said plurality of header information fields with at least a second of said plurality of header information fields or message body field; and
  - creating a plurality of relationship fields for storing information sufficient to identify said link between said at least one header information field and said at least second header information field or message body field.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one header information field, said at least second header information field, and said relationship field are stored as tables.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of linking the at least one header information field with at least a second and a third of said plurality of header information fields.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the header information fields is linked to more than one of said plurality of relationship fields.

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5. The method of claim 2, wherein at least one of said tables is a correspondent table, said correspondent table including header information for identifying the Correspondent.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said table includes fields for identifying the message body.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said relationship fields includes information for identifying the relationship between the message body and the correspondent.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said header includes sender e-mail address information and further comprising the steps of receiving at least a second e-mail having a second header and second message body, and separating said second header from said second message body; separating the information contained in said second header into a plurality of second header information fields; separating sender e-mail address information from said plurality of second header information fields; comparing the sender e-mail address information to information stored in said plurality of header information fields; and if the e-mail address information is identical to e-mail address information stored in said plurality of header information fields, storing the message body in a message field in said plurality of fields.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the steps of updating a count of the number of messages received and saving the count as a field.

10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the steps of storing the date of said second e-mail as a date of last correspondence from said e-mail address.

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11. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of linking said e-mail address with at least a second of said plurality of header information fields and a message field and storing information about said link in a relationship field.

12. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of prompting an e-mail recipient whether to save or delete the second e-mail message if the sender e-mail information is not identical to information stored in said plurality of header information fields.

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of assigning a record number to the message body; saving the message body in a field; and if there is no match between the e-mail sender address of the second e-mail message and e-mail sender address information stored in said header information fields, saving said second message e-mail sender address as a field; creating a correspondent name, and creating a correspondent table; the correspondent table having a plurality of fields therein; said plurality of fields including at least one of correspondent name, correspondent e-mail address, number of messages in database, last message typed, date of last correspondence; and storing said correspondent e-mail address in said e-mail address field.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating user generated e-mail information;

storing said user generated e-mail information in a user information field;

linking said user information field to at least one of said message body field or at least one of said plurality of header information fields; and

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creating at least one relationship field for storing information sufficient to identify the link between said user information field and said message body field or said at least one plurality of said header information fields.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one header information field, relationship field, message body field and user information field are stored as tables, and said user table storing user information fields is a topic table, said fields stored in said topic table include information for identifying the topic of the message body.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of said relationship fields contains information for identifying the relationship between the message body and the topic of the message represented thereby.

17. An apparatus for receiving e-mail comprising:

an incoming message server for converting e-mail messages into a common message object by separating message key fields from the message header and storing said key message fields in message object properties;

an incoming queue manager for receiving the common message objects and prioritizing the incoming common message objects for transmission;

a mass storage, said mass storage receiving said prioritized incoming common message objects and storing said common message objects as fields containing header information and message body;

an outgoing queue manager for transmitting the common message objects stored in said mass storage as an e-mail message to an indicated user.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said mass storage stores said common message objects as a plurality of fields, at least one of said plurality of

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fields being linked with at least a second of said plurality of fields within the mass storage; and a plurality of relationship fields stored in said mass storage containing information regarding the links between at least one of a plurality of fields with at least a second of plurality of fields.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein at least one of said fields is linked with at least a second and a third of said fields.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said mass storage includes tables, said first and second plurality of fields and relationship fields being organized as tables.

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